

Slide

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This color slide shows an industrial building in the port (Silo no. 5).

Accession Number 2022.19.100

Artiste / Auteur Rajotte, Normand

Date 2004

Medium and Support color proof, cellulose acetate film

Measurements 9,9 x 12,4 cm

Historical context

This photograph on slide shows a view of Elevator B, part of the Silo No. 5 complex at the Port of Montreal. The elevator is located on the Pointe-du-Moulin pier, and the photograph is taken from the Windmill-Point basin, with the lens pointing north. Canada's main export port until the middle of the 20th century, Montreal had to equip itself with numerous grain elevators by the end of the 19th century to store and sort grain from Western Canada in transit to Europe. As the old wooden elevators became obsolete, the Grand Trunk Railway commissioned the construction of Elevator B in 1904-1906. Designed by John S. Metcalf, the elevator was state-of-the-art: made of steel, it was 55 meters high and, with its annex built in 1913, could store a million bushels. This reinforced concrete annex was enlarged between 1923 and 1925, when the Harbour Commission acquired the complex. Finally, silo B-1 was erected in 1958: the three parts of the architectural complex were connected by overhead conveyors in 1963. The whole complex became known as Silo no. 5. It was decommissioned in 1996.